

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NEWS REPORT ON CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON AID TO
TURKEY

1. THERE FOLLOWS FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE TEXT OF REUTERS
WASHINGTON DATELINE STORY OF JUNE 27 RELATING TO CONGRESS-
IONAL ACTION ON AID TO TURKEY. BEGIN TEXT:

2. THE FORD ADMINISTRATION AND KEY HOUSE MEMBERS ARE DRAF-
TING LEGISLATION TO ALLOW AT LEAST A PARTIAL LIFTING OF
THE EMBARGO OF AMERICAN SHIPMENTS OF ARMS TO TURKEY, CONG-
RESSIONAL SOURCES SAID TODAY. PRESIDENT FORD MET WITH
DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN HOUSE LEADERS YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS
THE ISSUE AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TODAY VISITED CON-
GRESSIONAL OFFICES TO CONTINUE EFFORT TO DRAFT A COMPROMISE
ACCEPTABLE TO BACKERS OF THE EMBARGO. "WE ARE TRYING TO
GET THE DISPUTE OFF DEAD CENTER," SAID REP. WILLIAM BROOM-
FIELD OF MICHIGAN, THE TOP RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER OF THE
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HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. HE WAS ONE OF THE
SEVERAL SENIOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED YESTERDAY'S
MEETING WITH MR. FORD.

3. ALMOST IDENTICAL WORDS WERE USED BY REP. BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL (DEMOCRAT-NEW YORK), A LEADER OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GROUP WHICH LED THE SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO OPPOSE THE

ARMS EMBARGO BECAUSE OF TURKEY'S USE OF AMERICAN SUPPLIED WEAPONS FOR THE INVASION OF CYPRUS LAST YEAR. THE CONGRESSMEN CHARGED THAT TURKEY VIOLATED LONG-STANDING AGREEMENT REQUIRING THAT THE WEAPONS BE USED FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. CONGRESSMEN INVOLVED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DISPUTE SAID DETAILS ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT ON A PACKAGE PROPOSAL DESIGNED TO END THE IMPASSE. ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTERS ARE TRYING TO GET THE BROADEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT IN THE HOUSE WHICH IN A SERIES OF VOTES LAST YEAR OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTED THE EMBARGO WHICH WENT IN EFFECT IN FEBRUARY. CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES SAID ELEMENTS OF A COMPROMISE UNDER DISCUSSION INCLUDED ALLOWING THE SHIPMENT OF ARMS ALREADY PAID FOR BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AND POSSIBLY THE SHIPMENT OF SPARE PARTS.

4. IN TURN, CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS ARE TRYING TO GET SOME COMPROMISE MOVES FROM TURKEY AND INTENSIFIED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE. THEY ALSO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR "SOME FACE SAVING FORMULA," SAID ONE CONGRESSIONAL SOURCE INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE. OTHER SOURCES SUGGESTED THAT THE PACKAGE IS LIKELY TO INCLUDE INCREASED FUNDS FOR CYPRUS REFUGEES AND WHAT ONE CONGRESSMAN CALLED "SOMETHING FOR GREECE", PERHAPS IN THE FORM OF SOME ADDITIONAL MILITARY OR ECONOMIC AID. SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES SAID SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER AND WILLIAM MACOMBER, THE US AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY WHO RETURNED TO WASHINGTON FOR DISCUSSIONS, ARE SEEKING A COMPLETE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. BUT THAT WAS DISMISSED AS UNREALISTIC, EVEN BY THE CONGRESSMAN WHO INTRODUCED A BILL TO DO SO, REP. LEE HAMILTON (DEMOCRAT - INDIANA), CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH USUALLY HANDLES NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS.

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5. MR HAMILTON TOLD REUTERS HE DID NOT FEEL THE HOUSE WOULD APPROVE THE LIFTING OF THE BAN AS DID THE SENATE BY A 41 TO 40 VOTE IN MAY. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE OPPOSITION, A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL IS BEING SOUGHT. THE DISCUSSIONS, INVOLVING MR FORD AND KEY DEMOCRATS AS WELL AS REPUBLICANS WERE STEPPED UP AFTER THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT LAST WEEK CALLED FOR TALKS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE ISSUE WITHIN 30 DAYS AND SUGGESTED THAT SOME OF THE 20 AMERICAN BASES IN TURKEY MIGHT BE CLOSED DOWN IF THE ARMS EMBARGO WAS NOT LIFTED. HOWEVER, "CONGRESS CANNOT CONCEDE TO AN ULTIMATUM", SAID ONE KEY CONGRESSIONAL SOURCE WHO AT THE SAME TIME ACKNOWLEDGED THE

NEED FOR A FACE-SAVING FORMULA. EVEN IF THE BILL PASSES
THE HOUSE, A COMPROMISE WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT WITH
THE SENATE VERSION, A PROCESS WHICH COULD DELAY RESOLU-

TION OF THE ISSUE UNTIL LATE JULY. END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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